

ATTACHMENT A

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ A protein crystallization apparatus for carrying out a protein crystallization process comprising:

a stackable tray containing at least one sealable well comprising a plurality of sealable cylindrical wells in which a protein crystallization process may be performed when said wells are covered with a coverslip, said tray having an upper surface formed so as to be substantially coplanar with the plane of the upper openings of said plurality of sealable wells and the coverslip when placed on said openings~~an upper opening in said sealable well and sealable with a coverslip~~ and a lower surface comprising the plane of the lowermost portions of said sealable wells, and side walls surrounding said plurality of wells, said side walls having a lowermost portion which extends~~extending~~ beyond said lower surface of said tray comprising the plane of the lowermost portions of said sealable wells ~~the lowermost surface of said sealable well, said side walls~~and having a lower end configuration so as to form an outer base capable of allowing~~allow~~ said tray to be stacked on the outer portion of the upper surface of a second stackable tray positioned below the~~the~~ first tray while maintaining sufficient separation between the lower surface of the first tray and the upper surface~~openings~~ of the second stackable tray below the first one~~and the lower surface of the sealable wells of the first stackable tray so as to allow stacking of said trays without the lower surface of the first tray impinging upon the coverslips at the upper openings of the sealable wells of the second tray stacked below the first tray and to allow protein crystallization to take place in the second tray without disruption to the coverslips~~a lid to prevent impingement of the upper well openings by the lower surface of the first tray.~~~~

2-4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said sealable well ~~is~~wells are sealable with clear plastic tape.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising an automated system for stacking and unstacking said stackable trays.

7. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 which is capable of ~~wherein~~ the carrying out a protein crystallization process ~~comprises~~using a hanging-drop vapor-equilibration method.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the tray is comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of plastic and glass.

9. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a solution capable of forming crystals within said wellwells.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a second stackable tray stacked below said first tray.

11. (Withdrawn) A method for performing a chemical or biological process comprising the steps of: providing a plastic tray, the tray having an upper surface substantially coplanar with an upper opening in the sealable well, and side walls extending beyond a lower surface of the sealable well, said side walls having a lower end configured so as to allow the tray to be stacked on top of another stackable tray with said lower surface of said sealable well disposed at a position raised above the upper surface of the other tray stacked below thereby allowing stacking interactions without the use of a plastic lid; and performing the chemical or biological process in the sealable well of the tray.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11 wherein the chemical process comprises protein crystallization.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 12 wherein the protein crystallization is carried out using the hanging-drop method.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11 wherein the biological process comprises culturing of a biological material.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 wherein the biological material is selected from the group consisting of cells, fungi and bacteria.

16. (Canceled).